

PLANTATION SONGS HEARD IN ANCIENT ITALIAN CLOISTER

Incident of Tour Through
Country Which Presents
Many Sharp Contrasts Be-
tween the Old and New.

ASSISI, Italy, Sept. 15.—More than by anything else is one impressed nowadays in Italy by the contrast between the very old and the very new. It is more striking here than elsewhere, because the remnants of one of the world's oldest civilizations are here, while many of the Italian cities are keeping vigorously in the stride of modern progress. They have quite as much pride in Marconi as in the remains of the Roman Emperors. In fact they would be very indifferent to the latter if there were not now an inexhaustible source of revenue. For many centuries their ancestors demolished the grandest architectural monuments the world had ever seen to use the fragments in inferior buildings, and it was not until pilgrimages from the four corners of the earth came to worship what was left that the whole destruction ended. It is heart-breaking to look at these ruins of a magnificence that never will be reproduced, and yet it is not impossible to understand the Italian spirit which would protest against the waste of good building material being wasted in useless arches and unused forums. Thanks are due to the much abused tourist that every scrap of antiquity is now preserved and the earth's interior is searched for more.

It is here at Assisi and the neighboring Perugia that we have a complete picture of the juxtaposition of the old and the new. In these ancient Umbrian towns was a considerable degree of civilization centuries before the birth of Christ, and their possession was fought for through out countless centuries. Between the two is the Etruscan Tomb, of comparatively recent excavation, with the figures on their exquisitely carved receptacles for the ashes almost as perfect as when made in the third century before Christ, while within may be seen the imperishable ashes themselves. Suspended from the ceiling of the different rooms are tiny Etruscan lamps of bronze, where a faint light was once kept burning, but now the tombs are lighted by electricity. With a bulb at the end of a long pole the attendant shows many fine details that would be invisible by torch or candle, but the fragrance of the jars. And so at Assisi, when we descend into the crypt of Santa Chiara with becoming solemnity to gaze upon the tomb of Saint Clara, who died quietly in the thirteenth century, we are struck by the contrast between the old and the new. We viewed by electric light the sarcophagus of San Rufino against a fifth-century wall.

MODERN HOTELS IN TOWNS.
Every lover of antiquity looks forward to visiting Perugia and Assisi, the old, old Etruscan towns enveloped in the semi-obscurity of thousands of years. He imagines and half hopes that he will climb their steep hills on a donkey and sleep in a monastic cell, but the romantic dream is shattered when the fast express train with a loud shriek stops just long enough for him to scramble out and he is hurried into a big hotel under a modern, electric light, and the ground without a speed limit and races with several other omnibuses. The comfortable hotels are modern in every respect, steam heat, electric lights and bells, bathrooms with hot and cold water, "lifts" in the largest of them. When one goes to Perugia for charm and association, he should stop at Assisi, only two hours away by a delightful carriage drive over the hills. We came to Assisi and found a new hotel, constructed by the magnet of an English landlady. And here after the sun had set and the moon had risen all our romantic visions came to pass. Now as we sit at our table, we feel that never again will we forget these evenings on the hill, only overlooking the high terraces with the moonlight flooding the valley and the beautiful old monastery among the cypress trees. A charming singer who was with us sang for hours to the accompaniment of her guitar and whenever she would pause the nightingales in the trees below would fill the air with their plaintive melody. All night they sang, while from down in the valley came answering notes softened by the distance, and imagination pictured St. Francis listening to this same sweet music as he spent the hours in prayer, and St. Clara as she kept lonely vigil to her little convent.

SONGS IN ANCIENT CLOISTER.
We have had an experience at Assisi which no one ever had before and which always will linger in memory. There are attached to the splendid Franciscan monastery, built between 1220 and 1225, a series of small, dark, vaulted cloisters in existence, filled with old trees and surrounded by upper and lower porches, and into these cloisters her guitar and singing. Even the most worldly minded of us were shocked at this idea, but we decided to go with her. We slipped through the semi-darkness of the great church and out into the cloister, where she sat down on a fragment of stone of the 13th century and to our horror began singing plantation melodies. Nothing could happen, however, and a very good-looking young priest with delicate features, who listened with apparent enjoyment but a flushed face. Finally he asked Miss Porter to go to the upper porch and sing the Ave Maria. She did so, standing between two ancient pillars and singing it entirely through her voice ringing through the arches and unquestionably penetrating to the remotest corners of the monastery. When she finished she said: "In 700 years this is the first time a woman's voice has ever been heard within these walls." It was fitting that an American woman should break the record, but what did the rest of the monks and brothers and the priest who thought they heard it like to know. We would very much like to know. The young priest walked back through the church with us and we told him that besides the singer, one of us was a lecturer, one a writer and one an editor. Looking at us for a moment he said: "And how do you feel about the affair?" "Why shouldn't they?" he remarked. "I agree with you." All this in a monastery built in the thirteenth century.

MANY CHANGES IN ROME.
A wonderful transformation is taking place in Rome and those who were here as recently as ten years ago could

see remarkable changes. A large city has grown up outside the walls and big modern buildings occupy some of the most historic sites. The Rome of today does not sit upon her seven hills and from her throne of beauty rule the world. She climbs down and hustles, and, although she does not rule the world, her people are learning the more important art of how to rule themselves. We visited the Senate a short time ago and as we looked down upon that conventional body, many of them wearing conventional coats and carrying briefcases in their hands, we recalled with a smile our days of college Latin and its description of the Roman Senate! At present it is appointed for life by the King and in the not far distant past its authority would have been absolute, but now it is largely in the nature of a rubber stamp. Its principal function is to ratify the action of the lower house, which is elected by universal male suffrage, and, while it possesses the power of veto, this very wisely is never used. It is, however, a mark of distinction to be appointed to the Senate, and some of Italy's most eminent men are on its rolls. We were accompanied by Countess Zampini Salazar, who is much admired by prominent men on account of her political writings, and we were escorted through the fine, old Palace Madama of the sixteenth century, which now belongs to the Government, by Baron Raffaello Grassano, president of the highest Court of Justice in Rome. After the session had adjourned we were introduced to a number of the Senators, among them Giovanni Corbelli, a veteran patriot and historian; Oreste Tommasini, formerly Superintendent of Public Instruction and a high authority on education; Raffaele di Cesare, whose works on ecclesiastical policy and the relations between the Vatican and the State have been translated into English; Angelo Annarone, former Prefect of Rome; Giulio Monteverde, the renowned sculptor, some of whose most noted masterpieces are in the rotunda of the Senate which bears his name. Among the other distinguished Senators whom we met personally was Prince Prospero Colonna di Scanno, representative of one of the oldest families in Italy. He was the predecessor of the famous Socialist Ernesta Nathan as Mayor.

LIVES OF MONARCHS IMPERILED BY THE ASSASSIN'S DEED

European Rulers, Always in
Peril of Death, Doubly So
Now That Racial Hatred
Runs High.

Every lie the head that wears a crown is true at any time, but in war it is especially so. Since war was declared by France, Russia, Germany, England and Austria-Hungary, the rulers of these nations have been guarded night and day with double vigilance. It would surprise the world not at all to hear of the assassination at this time of one or another of the crowned heads. Though in all probability such an act would have little or no effect on the general war, there are fanatics in every nation who might think that to kill the ruler of the enemy would demoralize his armies. Of late years the courts of Europe apparently have been converted into shooting galleries, with royal families as targets and kings and queens as bull's eyes. It was the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, nephew of Emperor Francis Joseph and heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, that precipitated the present titanic struggle. Assassinations within the memory of the present generation include a Sultan of Turkey, a Czar and a Grand Duke of Russia, a Shah of Persia, an Empress of Austria-Hungary, a King of Italy, a King of Greece, a King and Queen of Serbia, a King and a Crown Prince of Portugal, a President of France and an Archduke of Austria-Hungary, with his wife. "No crown of Europe seems to be safe," Father Vaughan, an eminent old priest of London, said the other day. "It now requires a hero or heroine to wear one." The recent assassination of the heir to the throne of the Dual Monarchy furnished the freshest example, and it reminds the world that for 40 years the House of Hapsburg, the reigning dynasty of Austria, has been little more than a royal shadow. "Careful youth," said Francis Joseph when he ascended the throne. His words were recalled the following year when a son of the Countess Karolyi, a woman as bold as a man, shot at the Emperor. The Countess uttered a fearful curse upon the Emperor's head: "May his happiness be blasted. May his family be exterminated. May he be smitten in the persons of those he loves. May his life be wrecked and may his children be brought to ruin."

The curse has been fulfilled with a completeness that almost staggers the imagination. The Emperor's brother, Maximilian, was shot by his own subjects in Mexico. His eldest son and heir, Crown Prince Rudolf, was found dead in a hunting lodge, presumably a suicide. His sister-in-law, the Duchess d'Alençon, was burned to death in a Paris fire. His wife, Empress Elizabeth, was assassinated at Geneva. His eldest brother, Archduke John, was lost at sea. His nephew, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, was assassinated. That the Emperor himself should have eluded death seems nothing short of miraculous. On many occasions he has been in imminent peril of his life and once was stabbed on the ramparts of Vienna by a Hungarian.

ITALY'S RULER.
The ruler of Italy, Austria's neighbor, has fared little better. King Humbert, after escaping the knife and the pistol many times, was finally shot to death in 1900. As Crown Prince, Victor Emanuel had only just escaped from assassins while on his way to Vienna to attend the funeral of the assassinated Empress Elizabeth. Ever since he ascended the throne his life has been in great jeopardy. Perhaps the most uneasy crowned head in all Europe is that of Czar Nicholas II of Russia. Of nine Czar, four have been assassinated by nihilists. Czar Nicholas attempts have been frustrated to remove the present Russian ruler. Bombs have been thrown in the palace. Trains on which it was supposed his Imperial Majesty was riding have been blown up and shots have been fired at the ruler, but he has always escaped. Many attempts also have been made to kill King Alfonso of Spain. Six of these efforts have been recorded. On the last occasion the would-be assassin chose the unique idea of concealing a bomb in a bouquet of flowers, which was handed to the King as he rode through the streets after a military review. Only one attempt to assassinate Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and this was not confirmed. The alleged incident was not related until long after its occurrence. It was said then that the German newspapers were forbidden at the time to publish the story. So far as known no attempt has ever been made to assassinate George V of England, and no attacks were ever reported on King Edward VII or his mother, Queen Victoria.

LABOR LAWS ABROAD INCLUDE RULES FOR RIGID INSPECTION

Safeguarding of Workers a
Vital Feature, and in Some
Countries This Is Classified
as a Profession.

Recognition of the fact that the administration and enforcement of labor laws involve much more than a mere system of detecting violations of law is becoming more and more apparent in efforts for the protection of the working classes. The establishment of definite rules and standards for the safety and health of workers, higher specialization of the functions of inspectors, and the creation in a number of States of industrial commissions with large powers are indications of the progress made. In view of the attention the subject is receiving in our own country, the experience of foreign countries in the administration of labor laws and factory inspection is of peculiar interest, and a report on this subject, covering Great Britain, Germany, France, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium, which has just been published as Bulletin No. 112 of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, is both timely and instructive. In the countries named labor laws date back to the beginning of the 19th century, but the first measures for their enforcement were not passed until 1833, when factory inspection was established in England, while similar action was not taken elsewhere until 1874, when France created a labor inspection department, followed by Switzerland in 1877, Germany in 1883, Austria in 1883 and Belgium in 1888.

INSPECTION VITALLY IMPORTANT.
While experience has shown that labor laws without provisions for enforcement are practically futile as protective measures, emphasis must also be placed upon the importance of efficiency in the administrative machinery, its scope and functions, its methods of work, the character of its personnel and the provision of definite standards as to safety and sanitation. In only one of these phases of administrative work was marked superiority found in the countries visited as compared with the United States. This was in the training and character of the factory inspectors. In Europe the position of factory inspectors can be secured only after long technical training and severe tests. The occupation is classed as a profession ranking with law, medicine and engineering. Tenure of office is secure, and pensions are given for long service and old age. Men who seek these positions are of exceptional character and attainments, and their work is correspondingly efficient.

In France and Belgium the whole work of labor-law enforcement is centered in the labor inspection departments, but in England the local authorities have jurisdiction over the enforcement of all sanitary provisions in workshops. In Germany the factory inspectors are administered by the industrial inspectors, inspectors of insurance associations, and police authorities, and in Austria by the industrial inspectors and the local industrial authorities. In Switzerland there is a division of jurisdiction between the Federal factory inspectors and the cantonal inspectors, while the enforcement of all sanitary provisions is given to the local police and the cantonal authorities. Medical factory inspection is still an undeveloped field, England and Belgium being the only countries having separate medical divisions, and even there the number of physicians is small. Women inspectors number 59 in England, where they occupy the unique position of being practically independent in their work and functions. France has 18, Belgium 1, Prussia and Switzerland none, and the German States but few. Outside of England the work of women inspectors is limited to small shops where women and children are employed.

WORKINGMEN INSPECTORS.
There is great demand among the laboring classes for workingmen inspectors. This has met with considerable opposition from some of the Governments, as well as from regular inspectors. England has 10 workingmen inspectors, but their functions are limited, their salaries low, and their status entirely different from that of regular inspectors. Prussia, France, and Switzerland have no such inspectors as yet, and there are only a few

in Austria, Belgium, and some of the German States. Two extremes of organization are found, the highly centralized and the decentralized. England furnishes an example of the former, with a chief inspector, division inspectors, district inspectors, and the lower grades of inspectors. In England is also found much specialization of functions among medical inspectors, dangerous firms inspectors, electrical inspectors, etc. In the inspection departments of Prussia and Switzerland, which are examples of the decentralized type, there are no chief inspectors, each district inspector having the whole field of industrial inspection under his jurisdiction. Austria has a central industrial inspector, but his supervision does not extend as far as that of the chief inspector in England. In France there is practically no head to the inspection department, the division inspectors being charged with much of the inspectional work. Little progress in scientific standardization of safety and sanitation has been made in Europe and labor laws in many instances fail to give exact standards for the guidance of inspectors and for the force of manufacturers and employers. Inspection to detect violations of laws is still the method used by most inspectors, and most European inspection departments are far behind the more progressive departments in the United States in the matter of keeping records of inspections, violations, etc.

BIRDS THAT CROSS THE SEA.
How such tiny migrants as goldcrests cross the sea has often been a mystery to many, although it has always been known that they sometimes alight upon the fishing boats in the North Sea to eat the fish and the bait. Redwings and fieldfares leave their nesting haunts in Scandinavia and arrive in flocks to feed on the hips and haws in our hedgerows, or the berries of the elder, rowan tree, and even the mistletoe. Following in their wake come the moorhen, the great gray shrike, the goldcrest, the short-eared owl and others, including the woodcock, which, on arrival after crossing the North Sea, are often so exhausted as to suffer themselves to be overtaken and picked up by hand. Strange as it may seem, the larger migratory birds sometimes give a lift to smaller and weaker travelers, who, availing themselves of the broad platform afforded by their expanded pinions and the soft plumage of the dorsal feathers, among which they nestle and hold on with their tiny feet, are carried across the North Sea in comfort and alight in safety on our British soil. In this way a golden-crowned wren was actually observed to alight from the back of a short-eared owl on its arrival from Norway to our shores.—Tit-Bits.

RAISE FOODSTUFFS

Whatever Happens, Food Is Never a Superfluous Luxury.
Live men must eat, no matter what else may happen. Food must be had for 100,000,000 population of this country, with much to spare for another 100,000,000 at least, in the countries now at war. Only one European country among those now working mutual destruction of the ordinary means of living produces enough food for itself, even in time of peace. Whatever may be the outcome of the war, there will be an immediate demand for food, a demand that will increase the longer war is waged, a demand that is likely to end the war. With all channels of supply from outside closed, with half a dozen nations in the condition rapidly taking form in Europe, we may look for a simultaneous movement in all the countries by the men and women not in the fighting ranks for enough food to keep them alive. They will not ask why food is scarce; they will not hesitate to take it wherever it may be found. The armed forces may possibly be compelled to turn their weapons against their own people in riot and rapine unparalleled in history. In the opinion of the Manufacturers' Record, the famine will put an end to fighting. Then will come the call upon this country for food. If we have abundance, the call will be answered, with no shortage on our part. If we have a shortage, or if we have only the surplus for our own necessities, the response to the foreign demand will be made at the expense of our own people. We must have no shortage. We must plant corn, using corn generally for foodstuffs. Our farm possibilities have by no means been exhausted. The United States has 1,141,800,000 acres of land suitable for tillage crops and 381,500,000 acres for non-tillable crops. We are tilling only 212,000,000 acres, something more than one-fourth of the possibilities, and little of our tilled area is producing up to its possibilities. The present emergency is the opportunity for a return in this country from town to country. Forehanded farmers are to be the busiest class of producers in this country during the next two or three years. Let all possible attention be given to North, South, West, be centered upon producing foodstuffs.

AIRCRAFT POSSIBILITIES UNDER FIRST WAR TEST

Present Conflict Will Indicate Practical Value in Strategy.
Aircraft of all kinds are so new and untried as far as actual operations in warfare are concerned that a great deal of interest attaches to them in the present war in Europe, and their success in securing valuable information regarding the enemy is discussed in an article in the special war number of the Scientific American of September 5, from which the following extract is derived: No one can tell exactly how efficient aircraft will be in the present war. But it is certain that battles must be more carefully planned. The cavalry raids which marked our civil war, the hidden movements of a mobile force, so well handled that it could even defeat larger numbers, will be quite impossible, simply because they will be detected by the aircraft. Modern armies are so huge that they cannot easily be rearranged after their "strategic deployment," as it is called, has once been decided upon. Hence the use of aircraft will develop fearfulness in the preliminary disposition of troops and bring about a general speeding up of strategic operations. Because of the eye in the air, opposing army corps will become more like naval squadrons; their presence and strength will be revealed to each other, as the presence and strength of battleship fleets are revealed at sea. With positions, strengths and movements known, the result can be imagined. Suppose that the days of the airship and aeroplane a general had to feel the enemy's strength. He sent out skirmishers and cavalry, whose losses were the only test of the strength and position of his foe. Even then he might be fooled by feints, by masked movements. At Mukden the Japanese caused the Russians to think that the Russian flank flank would be turned. It was a hurried dash to counteract the expected movement. Counterattacking westward, they could be thrown only piecemeal against the true Japanese flank attack. The result can be imagined. Suppose that the Russians had commanded the air. Suppose that they had discovered the actual movements of the Japanese reserves and met flank attack with outflanking movement. What a different battle it would have been!

WAR TALK TABOO IN SCHOOLS
New York Orders Maintenance of
Neutrality Rule.
NEW YORK, Sept. 15.—Reference to the European war will be taboo in the public schools of Greater New York. Teachers have been ordered to avoid any reference to the conflict that would be likely to stir passion or resentment in the minds of pupils or their parents. "The event is too big for controversy now, and the schools should reflect the feeling of the whole republic, that of pity and profound sorrow," says the order.

SIR EDWARD CARSON WEDS
Ulster Unionist Leader and Moreton
Frewen's Niece Are Married.
LONDON, Sept. 15.—Great surprise was caused here today by the news that Sir Edward Carson, leader of the Ulster Unionists, had been married quietly yesterday to Miss Ruby Frewen, niece of Moreton Frewen, who is a strong supporter of the Irish Nationalists. The wedding took place at Wilmington, Somerset. Sir Edward's first wife died in April, 1913. He is 69 years old.

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Of serge, gabardine and cheviot—sketch shows one.

These are in nut brown, Hunter's green, Holland blue, navy blue and black. Have 45-inch Redingote coats, with smart velvet bands low around the hips—with velvet collars and cuffs, high military collars or novelty revers, and lined to waist with yarn-dyed satin. The skirts are in pretty yoke top, side-plaited effects.

Misses' \$22.50 Coats \$16.50

Picture shows one of the many styles.

These are double-faced Scotch plaid mixtures, with smart ripple back, side belt, plaid revers and novelty buttons.

Also others in novelty cross-bar chevrons, in brown, Holland blue, navy blue and black, made cape effect, with velvet military collar. And others of dressier fashion in fine chifon broadcloth of newest shades.

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